



Buck Hollow Trail



Buck Hollow trailhead

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center, drive south on Kennedy Memorial Drive. The road forks, take the left fork which is Paige Bar Road. Continue south past the Whiskeytown Cemetery.

Again the road forks; turn left onto the unpaved road which leads to Shasta and Igo. Continue past the Horse Camp staging area.

Continue to the intersection of Mule Town Road and turn right towards Igo and Ono. Drive about 0.5 mile and look for the trailhead sign on the left, Buck Hollow/Salt Creek Trail.

FEATURES

Difficulty Level: Easy

Length: 1.0 mile one way

Elevation: 1,050 to 1,180 feet

Old mining road

This trail connects to the Salt Creek Trail.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

This is an easy hike along an old mining road that leads north through a chaparral and oak woodland forest. Several small creek crossings, spring wildflowers and the sounds of frogs make this walk a very easy stroll through the woods for families with children.

Large oak trees are found along the trail. Hikers will enjoy small open meadows that support a variety of wildflowers in the springtime. There are many streams for children to explore and learn about habitat for frogs and water bugs. Creekside habitats are among the most diverse in plant and animal species. They provide "travel corridors" for large and small animals.



The trail follows a rolling topography that passes over low ridges with views of Shasta Bally to the west and the nearby hills of Shasta Divide to the east. Several large ponderosa pines that survived Gold Rush Era logging can be seen along the trail.

Walking on water...

The **water strider**, or pond skater, is found on the surface of still and slow moving water. It rarely goes underwater. The underside of its body is covered with water-repellent hair. Moving along the water surface, the insect uses its middle legs like paddles, and its hind ones to steer and brake as needed (just like the "stern person" in a canoe or kayak). The short front legs are used to catch prey. Water striders eat small insects that fall on the water's surface and also immature insects, or "larvae".

Because they are so sensitive to motion and vibrations on the water's surface, they can easily locate prey that happens to wander nearby.



Water strider

After hiking 30 minutes along the Buck Hollow Trail, the path intersects with Mule Town Road. Turn left at Mule Town Road and walk down the road to the parking area.



SAFETY

Tread carefully on rocky portions of the trail. Watch out for poison oak which grows vigorously at this elevation. Avoid the itchy rash it produces by not brushing up against overhanging branches along the trail.



Riparian Residents

As you explore the cool streams within the park, you might see some of these riparian (or streamside) creatures.

The Pacific tree frog

is quite distinctive with its dark "mask" across the eyes and "suction cups" on its toes. The frog uses its toe pads to help climb trees and other plants. The croak of this amphibian (also known as the Pacific Chorus Frog) is often heard during spring and summer evenings as males call for females. Clear egg clusters are attached to sticks or plants in still water and hatch into tadpoles within 2 to 5 weeks. The tadpoles will metamorphose (change) into small frogs in one or two months.



While poking around rocks or logs in cool, moist environments, you might observe a



short, smooth animal with a long tail known as the **Black Salamander**. Mucus-forming glands help the animal stay moist which is vital for its survival. When the salamander fears danger, glands expel secretions toxic to other animals. In addition, it can drop its tail when necessary in order to escape predators. The tail later regenerates.

The animals shed their skin over a period from a few days to every few weeks. During cold weather, they do not shed at all. Salamanders don't hibernate. Although carnivorous, salamanders don't have teeth! Their diet consists mainly of worms, insects, and other salamanders.